

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00555 131300Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 /063 W
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R 131115Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6259
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0555

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: SOVIET TOILET RULES IRK INDIAN SEAMEN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA AND MADRAS JAN 10,
1975 FROM AMCONSUL BOMBAY IS REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE

BOMBAY 0079

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ELAB, IN

SUBJ: SOVIET TOILET RULES IRK INDIAN SEAMEN

1. A NEW SOVIET REGULATION REQUIRING ALL SHIPS VISITING
BLACK SEA PORTS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH A SELF-CYCLING TOILET
SYSTEM HAS REPORTEDLY LED TO DISCONTENT AMONG THE CREW OF
INDIAN SHIPS ON THE USSR RUN.

2. AS INDIAN SHIPS HAVE ONLY THE OPEN FLUSH SYSTEM, WHICH
DISCHARGES EFFLUENTS INTO THE SEA, RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES SEAL
ALL LATRINES WHEN THE SHIPS CALL AT THEIR PORTS TO PREVENT
POLLUTION OF DOCK BASINS. THE CREW IS, THEREFORE, FORCED
TO USE WHATEVER FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE QUAYSIDE.
THIS IS PARTICULARLY IRKSOME DURING THE COLD RUSSIAN
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NIGHTS WITH THE QUAYS AND LATRINES POORLY LIGHED OR NOT

LIGHTED AT ALL. IN THESE CONDITIONS, THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN
AND CHILDREN OF OFFICERS ON BOARD IS AWKWARD.

3. ANOTHER SOVIET PRACTICE WHICH HAS IRRITATED INDIAN
SEAMEN IS THE FUMIGATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CREW OF
ALL CARGO--WHETHER IN PACKAGES, CASES OR CRATES--BECAUSE
THE SOVIET HEALTH AUTHORITIES CONSIDER MANY CONTAGIOUS
DISEASES ENDEMIC IN INDIA.

4. LEO BARNES, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL UNION
SEAFARERS OF INDIA (NUSI), CONFIRMED THE FOREGOING AND
SAID THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE STRICT HEALTH REGULATIONS
AND DISCOURAGE USE OF TOILET FACILITIES ON BOARD THE SHIP
WHILE AT PORT, BUT THESE COUNTRIES HAVE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED
PORTABLE TOILETS. NUSI HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF
SHIPPING COMPANIES TO THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY
SEAMEN IN RUSSIAN PORTS AND HAS REQUESTED REMEDIAL ACTION.
SIGNED BANE.
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